

**Subject:** Re: A smaller matter

**From:** Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>

**Date:** 03/01/2012 10:21 AM

**To:** mike bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>

**CC:** dan.scott@lacity.org, craig.weber@lacity.org, kevin.keller@lacity.org, Andy Loos <Andy@hbdrollinger.com>, Miki Payne2 <miki@hbdrollinger.com>, Sander De Wildt <sander.dewildt@cbre.com>, John Ruhlen <JRuhlen916@aol.com>

**BCC:** Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>, Nate Kaplan <nate.kaplan@lacity.org>, Lisa Trifiletti <ltrifiletti@lawa.org>, Matthew Hayden <haydenplanning@ca.rr.com>

Thanks. We just got out of the meeting. It seems there is a new team that is moving into the CDO planning group. I think that should be seen as a credit to our effective CD11 Council Office. The lead new guy, Craig Weber, took control and led the group through a process of getting it done. It looks like we have a permit sign-off as soon as the plans are submitted. Daniel Scott provided critical support along the way. I think we are there. The owner's manager, Sander De Wildt, seemed to leave happy as well. Thank you CD11!!

On Mar 1, 2012 10:03 AM, "mike bonin" <[mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)> wrote:  
it went ok this AM?

On Wed, Feb 29, 2012 at 5:21 PM, Donald Duckworth  
<[duckworth.donald@gmail.com](mailto:duckworth.donald@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Mike...

We do appreciate your personal involvement on this trash enclosure fiasco.

I believe that it seems that the Department Head has given you a long winded excuse crafted by some staff person.

Attached is a specific list of 3 optional ways that were identified in a meeting with your staff to solve this problem that are available at the Department Head's discretion. Back when ships were made of wood and I was in a position to receive requests from Council Members that were accompanied by specific suggestions as to how their request might be accommodated, I at least responded within the context of those suggestions.

I think we've got 1 more meeting to accomplish something more than just talk. (That's just what I feel.) Unfortunately that meeting is early tomorrow morning.

I hope you can pull a rabbit out of the hat here. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nate Kaplan** <[nate.kaplan@lacity.org](mailto:nate.kaplan@lacity.org)>

Date: Tue, Feb 21, 2012 at 7:51 PM  
Subject: Fwd: A smaller matter  
To: Don Duckworth <[duckworth.donald@gmail.com](mailto:duckworth.donald@gmail.com)>, jruhlen916  
<[jruhlen916@aol.com](mailto:jruhlen916@aol.com)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "mike bonin" <[mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)>  
Date: Feb 21, 2012 1:36 PM  
Subject: Fwd: A smaller matter  
To: "Whitney Blumenfeld" <[Whitney.Blumenfeld@lacity.org](mailto:Whitney.Blumenfeld@lacity.org)>, "Nate Kaplan"  
<[Nate.Kaplan@lacity.org](mailto:Nate.Kaplan@lacity.org)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael LoGrande** <[michael.logrande@lacity.org](mailto:michael.logrande@lacity.org)>  
Date: Thu, Feb 16, 2012 at 4:01 PM  
Subject: Re: A smaller matter  
To: mike bonin <[mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)>

Hi Mike,

The only thing would be to amend the CDO. That would take a long time and cost the City more than the enclosure. I don't think the cost of what we require is that much more than a code approved structure. I wish we had more options. Perhaps the Neighborhood Council could help fund the improvement? Just an idea.

On Thu, Feb 16, 2012 at 2:15 PM, mike bonin <[mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)> wrote:

Thanks, Mike. I appreciate the time and effort. But if I understand this correctly, I think this means that the applicant will forget about the enclosure and the business owners and the community will be stuck with the eyesore. They feel like they have two options: a continued eyesore with no expense, or a very expensive way of enclosing the eyesore and satisfying city regulations. They had been hoping that there might be a way to improve the situation more cost-effectively. I suspect they will walk away from the effort altogether.

Is there anything Bill can do by council motion to allow them to proceed as they would prefer?

On Thu, Feb 16, 2012 at 1:29 PM, Michael LoGrande  
<[michael.logrande@lacity.org](mailto:michael.logrande@lacity.org)> wrote:

Hi Mike,

Our staff has been working with the applicant to try and find a solution for a few weeks. Given the City's regulations we do not have the ability to bypass the CDO.

We have reviewed the provisions of the CDO, Sec 13.08 of the LAMC regarding the review of projects in CDO and Sections 12.40 and 12.41 of the LAMC regarding landscaping.

1. The proposed enclosure meets the definition of a project in the CDO.
2. As a project, this review requires the filing of Design Overlay Plan Approval Case with a Determination Letter to be issued by the Director. This requires the payment of fees, appropriate processing times and the issuance of a determination letter with findings that it is in compliance with the provisions of the CDO.
3. To accommodate the applicant, (after several discussions) the Dept decided that we would "Sign Off" on the plans without the filing of a case provided that the project comply with all provisions of the CDO and the LAMC. To meet that level of documentation we required the following:

attractive design that complements the existing main structures. Design cues should come from existing buildings and not be just a cinder block wall with stucco. The landscaping is to use Native drought tolerant plants and that the submitted plans provide a proposed plant list that is "stamped by a Landscape practitioner". Note: the "native drought tolerant plant" requirement is in Sec No 12.41 and allows us to get around the irrigation requirement as discussed previously.

4. Please note: The current plans for the enclosure we reviewed do not meet the standards of the CDO. As such, it is not likely that Director can make the findings that the project substantially complies with the CDO Guidelines and Standards. I understand at times the regulations seem burdensome, but the CDO is in place and our staff appears to have found a solution that is business friendly while upholding the intent of the CDO.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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**From:** mike bonin <[mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)>

**To:** mike bonin <[mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)>

**Cc:** Michael LoGrande <[Michael.LoGrande@lacity.org](mailto:Michael.LoGrande@lacity.org)>; Whitney Blumenfeld <[Whitney.Blumenfeld@lacity.org](mailto:Whitney.Blumenfeld@lacity.org)>; Nate Kaplan <[Nate.Kaplan@lacity.org](mailto:Nate.Kaplan@lacity.org)>

**Sent:** Thu Feb 16 11:35:06 2012

**Subject:** Re: A smaller matter

Mike

Resending this. The councilman would like to get some word back to the Westchester folks that there is hope for a resolution.

Thanks

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 15, 2012, at 1:48 PM, mike bonin <[mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)> wrote:

Mike-

Thanks for the doing the call about New West. Bill sent a letter to PLUM today on the matter. I'll make sure staff sends you a copy.

On a smaller, but time-sensitive matter, we could use your help trying to untangle some red tape over a trash enclosure in Westchester, at the Westchester Town Center, off Sepulveda. Right now, the trash bins are exposed, and the owners and neighbors don't like the way it looks. The owners are willing to enclose the bins, but the City is insisting on so many bells and whistles that the project is too costly and complicated for them to want to do it. If the City stands strong on all its demands, it will be a lose-lose, with nothing happening, and the current ugly bins remaining open to public view. We would like to prevent the lose-lose from happening, and allow the owner to enclose the bins in something less expensive than a Trump Hotel.

Here is some more detailed info:

#### Current State

The Westchester Town Center BID and Ohio Teachers Association (the owners of the parking lot behind Kohls) are requesting a variance or exemption from the current CDO landscaping requirements for a trash enclosure. Currently, the trash bins do not have an enclosure and are scattered in the north/west section of the parking lot.

#### The Ask

The BID and the owners are asking for this exception because the costs of building the trash enclosures per the specific guidelines of the CDO are too costly, because Planning is asking for them to build new irrigation lines which would cost more than the trash enclosures themselves. This does not necessarily need to happen per the CDO because this specific requirement is phrased as a "should" not "shall". A Director's determination could easily help the BID and the owners acquire the authorization to proceed on a project that everyone in the community would be very proud of.

Planning also stated that they not only didn't want to comply with the intent of the CDO but the City Landscape Requirements

#### Objections from Planning

Planning originally wanted to stick by the CDO's specific language and require the BID and the owner to install a new irrigation system to water the creeping vines to make sure they don't die in the future. Planning now says that they want an attractive design that complements the existing main structures. Design cues should come from existing buildings and not be just a cinder block wall with stucco. Planning also wants them to use drought tolerant plant and provide a proposed plant list must be included and "stamped by a Landscape practitioner" proving that these plants are actually native and drought tolerant. Planning is also requesting a professional rendering of the proposed trash enclosure. The BID and the owner believe having an architect to draft a rendering for a trash enclosure is too expensive and not necessary for this small scale project.

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#### Deadline

If the owners do not feel comfortable that they will receive City Planning approval by the end of this week, they say will decide to not build anything. (This issue has been going on for months.)

\*Dept. Planning Staff = Kevin Jones and Conni Pallini

Thanks for any help you can provide.

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Room 415, City Hall

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Los Angeles, CA 90012  
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